REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 31, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van de Mortel et al. (hereinafter "Van de Mortel") in view of Chiu et al. (hereinafter "Chiu") and further in view of Saegusa et al. (hereinafter "Saegusa"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references teach or suggest "means for initializing the handset via the wired interface, when the handset is physically docked in the docking station, by reading from the handset *a unique handset security code based on a unique handset serial number permanently stored in the handset*", as recited in Claims 1 and 9.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references teach or suggest "initializing a handset via the wired interface, when the handset is physically docked in the docking station, by reading from the handset *a unique handset security code based on a unique handset serial number permanently stored in the handset*", as recited in Claim 8.

The Examiner has relied upon Saegusa as disclosing the preceding limitations of Claims 1, 8, and 9 that appear in italics. Specifically, the Examiner has stated that "Saegusa suggests the use of serial number as a basic for unique device security codes (See col. 1 lines 39-48)" (pending Office Action, p. 3). However, the cited portion of Saegusa discloses the following:

> It is therefore an object of the present invention to reduce the total manufacturing cost of a cordless telephone system by eliminating the need to prepare a read only memory for future system expansion. The present invention is based on the utilization of a product identification, or "serial" number which is uniquely assigned to each cordless telephone at the stage of manufacture and the utilization of a memory of the type which allows data to be electrically written and permanently stored. A typical example of such a

memory is the electrically erasable programmable read-only memory, or EEPROM.

Thus, Saegusa simply discloses the use of a serial number to register a new cordless telephone to an existing cordless telephone system.

Applicants respectfully assert that the use of a serial number, without more, does not disclose the above limitations of Claims 1, 8, and 9. For example, product serial numbers may be obtained from unscrupulous persons by simply reading the same off a box in a store and even from the Internet in postings such as, for example, recall notices that typically identify products by their serial numbers. In contrast, the present invention utilizes a unique handset security code based on (but clearly not the same as only) the handset serial number. Thus, the present invention provides a level of security not found in Saegusa.

Moreover, the present invention is more beneficial that the systems of Van de Mortel and Chiu in that Van de Mortel and Chiu use a random number generator that, by definition, generates random numbers. In contrast, by generating a unique handset security code from a known number or ID (i.e., the serial number), techniques may be employed to reverse the code generation algorithm to retrieve the initial number used (i.e., the serial number), something not possible with randomly generated numbers. These and other attendant advantages of the present invention over the cited art are readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art, given the teachings of the present invention and corresponding claims.

Applicants respectfully assert that the remaining references, namely Van de Mortel and Chiu, do not cure the deficiencies of Saegusa. For example, as noted above, the remaining references also do not teach at least the above limitations of Claims 1, 8, and 9 that appear in italics. Moreover, while the above limitations are directed to *initialization*, the cited section of Van de Mortel is directed to *changing* the security address code. Thus, none of the references, either taken singly or in combination, disclose all of the limitations of Claims 1, 8, and 9. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 8, and 9 are allowable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2-7 and 10 depend from Claim 1 or a claim which itself is dependent from Claim 1 and, thus, contain all the limitations of Claim 1. Claims 11 and 12 depend

from Claims 8 and 9, respectively, and, thus, contain all the limitations of Claims 8 and 9, respectively. Accordingly, Claims 2-7 and 10 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1, and Claims 11 and 12 are patentably distinct and non-obvious over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 8 and 9, respectively.

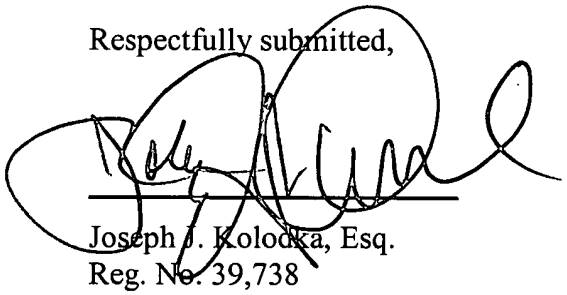
Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims set forth in the Office Action of December 31, 2003 be withdrawn, that pending claims 1-12 be allowed, and that the case proceed to early issuance of Letters Patent in due course.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No. 07-0832

Date: 30 March 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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